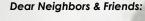
Senator Gary Siplin's District 19 Newsletter



December 1, 2011 Issue No. 2



Thank you for allowing me to serve you in the Florida Senate. As the final days of my term in office come to an end, I want to utilize this newsletter to keep you abreast of the things that are occurring, both in Tallahassee and at home, that are of greatest importance to you.

-~~ God Bless, Gary

Senate on the Street!

I initiated for the first time this year "Senate on the Street," which allows residents of Florida's 19th Senatorial District to meet with me one-on-one and discuss with any issue, concern or problem involving the state government in the neighborhoods where they live.

My inaugural "Senate on the Street" was held at Winn-Dixie in Apopka on Veterans' Day, and several constituents stopped by with questions and concerns that my staff and I were able to assist them with.

The next "Senate on the Street" will come at the conclusion of the first two weeks of the 2012 Legislative Session. Be sure to come by and make your concerns known, or simply to say "Hi."

WHAT: "Senate on the Street" with State Sen. Gary Siplin
WHEN: 11am-1pm, Saturday, January 28, 2012
WHERE: Bravo Supermarket, 999 N. Semoran Blvd., Orlando



Senator Siplin's Upcoming Events

Central Florida Legislative Delegation Meeting 12.01.2011 UCF Fairwinds Alumni Center

Senate on the Street 12.03.2011 Town Hall, Town of Eatonville

Interim Committee Meetings of the Florida Senate 12.05 thru12.08.11 Tallahassee, FL

Foliage Sertoma Club of Apopka 35th Annual Christmas Parade 12.10.2011 Apopka, FL

Worship at Sanctuary of Praise 12.11.2011 Orlando, FL

Florida Innocence Commission
Meeting

12.12 thru 12.13.11 Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando

SunRail MBE/DBE Forum 12.16.2011 Amway Center, Fairwinds Tower

Annual Christmas Toy Giveaway 12.17.2011 Jones High School

Change Your Life Workshop 12.31.2011 Harvest Baptist Church, Orlando

Progress for Lake Apopka

Fifty years of pesticide and fertilizer run-off to Lake Apopka has resulted in it becoming the state's most contaminated large lake. The people who were exposed to those same pesticides for years have yet to see any concentrated effort to address the resulting health concerns. That's why during the 2011 Legislative Session, after hearing of the ongoing environmental and health issues in the Lake Apopka community, I worked to obtain a \$500,000 appropriation to address the special issues that have evolved from the pesticide exposure years ago. Although, the funding was vetoed by Governor Scott, I will continue fighting to have those dollars re-appropriated during the 2012 Legislative Session.

Since then, I have been working tirelessly with various stakeholders and the Lake Apopka community to ensure that all secondary effects of the wrong committed years ago, are corrected, including waste disposal, chronic illness, animal mortality, transportation issues, and access to healthy foods. This also includes working to prevent further continuation or expansion of toxicity in the Lake Apopka area.

I am proud that as a result of our efforts, the conversion of the Vista Landfill from a Class 3 to a Class 1 facility has been halted. I vow to continue these efforts until the Lake Apopka community is made whole again.

Committee Assignments

Agriculture, Chair

Governmental Oversight & Accountability, Vice Chair

Higher Education, Vice Chair

Budget

Budget Subcommittee on Education PreK-12 Appropriations

Budget Subcommittee on Higher Education Appropriations

Reapportionment

Regulated Industries

Rules

Joint Legislative Budget Commission

From My Family, Staff, and I:



What's New in District 19?

On Thanksqiving, I was honored to host my 1st Thanksqiving Dinner for Seniors at Soiree Event Center in Pine Hills. We were able to feed hundreds of Senior citizens and Veterans, as well as to provide them with blankets to keep them warm this coming Winter.

On November 2, I asked Gov. Rick Scott to place an administrative freeze on all SunRail contracts that have yet to be awarded due to the lack of diversity in contracts awarded thus far. In an effort to resolve this issue, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has asked me to co-sponsor a Minority Business Enterprise SunRail Forum, which will be held on Friday, December 16th at the Fairwinds Tower of the New Amway Center. My hope is that this event will mark the initiation of increased opportunities for minority businesses in Central Florida on the SunRail project.

On December 17th, my 10th Annual Christmas Toy Giveaway will take place at Jones High School. We were pleased this year to have over 4,000 children sign up for toys, and are excited at the prospect of being able to bless so many families this year.

Bills Sponsored by Sen. Siplin

SB 98 Education: Authorizing district school boards to adopt resolutions that allow prayers of invocation or benediction at secondary school events

SB 100 Unclaimed Deposits Held by Utilities: Requiring annually to supplement the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

SB 102 Employment Practices: Prohibiting the use of a job

applicant's personal credit history as a hiring criterion

SB 222 Domestic Corporations: Providing for conversion of limited agricultural associations into domestic corporations

SB 102 Termination of Gas or **Electric Service:** Prohibiting the termination of a senior citizen's or low-income family's utilities during periods greeting for December 25 of extreme temperatures

SB 106 Postsecondary Student Fruit & Vegetable Fees: Providing an exemption Packinghouses: Providing a tax

held by a utility be deposited tuition at a state university or by fresh fruit and vegetable Florida College System institution for undocumented students who meet specified **SB 644 Sealing & Destroying** requirements

> **SB 200 Limited English Proficient Students:**

Authorizing school districts to administer student achievement tests in a student's primary language if the student is severely limited SB 852 Healthy Foods Retail in English proficiency

SR 300 Merry Christmas/Official **Greeting for December 25:**

Recognizing "Merry Christmas" as the State of Florida's official

SB 592 Tax Exemptions/Fresh

that any unclaimed deposits from payment of non-resident exemption for electricity used packinghouses

Certain Criminal Records:

Creating a procedure for a person to seek a court order to seal an arrest record if the person is deemed factually innocent of any charge arising out of the arrest

Act: Directing the Department of Agriculture to establish a financing program to help fund projects that increase access to fresh fruits & vegetables in underserved areas

Contact Us

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